

Persons Receiving Unemployment Benefit, January, 1947.

This Bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of the Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of January, 1947. The tabulations show districts of residence, together with causes of unemployment and industries within each district. The information which follows deals only with persons in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those awaiting benefits or those who do not apply. The figures given, therefore, cover only a part of the total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The January figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 7,262 males and 228 females; the total of 7,490 being an increase of 1,351 over December, and 4,590 over October.

<u>End of Month.</u>		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>1946 -</u>				
October .. ..	..	2,814	86	2,900
November .. ..	..	3,570	94	3,664
December .. ..	..	5,971	168	6,139
<u>1947 -</u>				
January .. ..	..	7,262	228	7,490

Figures earlier than October do not give a normal comparison as they were inflated by strikes of earlier months; whilst the figures for December and January are considerably affected by seasonal unemployment.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of January was 228, compared with 168 in December, 1946. The Rockhampton District figure rose from 82 in December to 118 in January, 1947, 94 of the latter number being previously employed in meatworks. Brisbane District had 25 females on unemployment benefit in January, Bundaberg 14, Maryborough 16, Toowoomba 18, and the balance of 37 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

The increase in benefits due to seasonal unemployment became even more pronounced during January, as will be seen from the following figures which show the chief causes of unemployment in October, December, and January; the increase during January due to each cause is also given.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>October.</u>	<u>December.</u>	<u>January.</u>	<u>Increase in January.</u>
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy ..	109	116	105	- 11
Inefficiency, incompetence ..	112	136	131	- 5
Establishment closed, reduction of staff	491	714	801	87
Replaced by re-instated servicemen	116	134	128	- 6
Shortage of materials ..	130	240	260	20
Seasonal work and weather conditions	276	2,363	3,456	1,093
Casual work	495	781	909	128
Discharged or laid off for other reasons	438	478	484	6
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc. ..	231	405	413	8
Quitted for other reasons ..	179	278	302	24
Not previously employed ..	323	494	501	7
	2,900	6,139	7,490	1,351

It will be noted that the increase in January in the number drawing unemployment benefit was mainly due to seasonal work, casual work and establishment closed or reduction of staff, the last two causes also being connected with the seasonal nature of some Queensland industries.

Comparison of the totals receiving benefit in each district for each month since October stresses the seasonal nature of the rise in benefit payments. In addition to these figures in the following statement, the increases in January over December are also shown; only those districts which recorded an increase of over 100 since October are given.

<u>District.</u>		<u>October.</u>	<u>November.</u>	<u>December.</u>	<u>January.</u>	<u>Increase in January.</u>
Rockhampton	..	345	345	853	1,462	609
Ingham	..	7	8	49	209	160
Ayr	..	10	19	88	231	143
Mackay	..	229	256	629	756	127
Cairns	..	77	179	415	536	121
Townsville	..	127	171	335	422	87
Bundaberg	..	101	288	550	596	46
Innisfail	..	15	37	195	230	35
Brisbane	..	1,401	1,650	1,963	1,989	26

All these areas except Brisbane are sugar or meatworks districts; and they accounted for 3,531, or 77 per cent. of the total State increase of 4,590 since October, 1946. In October, 1946, these districts accounted for 31 per cent. of the State total; by January, 1947, when seasonal unemployment was high, their proportion had risen to 59 per cent. Rockhampton figures are high, but this is in a large measure due to the easing of operations at meatworks in both Rockhampton and Gladstone.

Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. I) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. The totals along the bottom of the sheet show the numbers unemployed from each cause while the totals on the right show the numbers unemployed in each district, and the number unemployed per 10,000 population in main groups of districts. The Moreton Division numbers are the highest, but represent a much smaller proportion of total population than is the case for any other Division, except the Downs and South West. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows the high figure for the north coast sugar areas, the central meat areas and the south coast sugar areas.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. II shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. The totals at the foot of the sheet give the numbers in each industry group for the State. Food and drink factories have the highest total (35 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit) and the bulk of this is in meatworks and sugar mills. This is followed by agriculture, pastoral, and dairying (20 per cent. of the total) largely sugar workers, building and construction, discharged servicemen and ex-employees of Australian and Allied forces (mostly in Brisbane).

During January in the north coast sugar areas, there was a rise of 401 from food factories (largely sugar mills) and 224 from farms. In Rockhampton, food factories (largely meatworks) unemployment increased by 500, while in the south coast sugar areas field labour unemployment increased by 23. The numbers were well distributed through the other industry groups in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Townsville districts.

S. E. SOLOMON.

ACTING GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

BRISBANE,

6th May, 1947.

TABLE I. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
JANUARY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off.								Quitted,		Not previously employed.	Total.	
	medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		Number.	Per 10,000 Population.
Brisbane ..	43	88	404	63	122	148	333	275	167	99	247	1,989	
Ipswich ..	3	6	28	6	15	14	21	20	15	12	35	175	
Moreton ..	46	94	432	69	137	162	354	295	182	111	282	2,164	41
Gympie ..	.	2	1	2	1	5	2	1	1	.	5	20	
Maryborough	1	1	29	6	9	56	48	23	10	12	26	221	
Bundaberg ..	.	4	18	7	14	380	73	5	38	20	37	596	
S.E. Coastal	1	7	48	15	24	441	123	29	49	32	68	837	76
Toowoomba ..	8	2	14	7	21	24	23	18	22	15	18	172	
Warwick ..	.	1	9	1	1	14	5	1	1	2	3	38	
Roma ..	.	.	.	.	1	.	5	2	1	1	.	10	
Charleville	.	.	1	.	2	30	15	1	4	.	2	55	
Downs and S.W.	8	3	24	8	25	68	48	22	28	18	23	275	19
Rockhampton	8	10	90	13	31	980	121	49	43	52	65	1,462	
Emerald ..	.	.	.	1	1	3	1	2	.	2	.	10	
Longreach ..	.	2	7	1	.	49	9	7	6	6	3	90	
Central ..	8	12	97	15	32	1,032	131	58	49	60	68	1,562	155
Blackay ..	10	3	14	4	5	544	91	22	24	16	23	756	
Yr ..	1	.	24	1	.	176	3	2	7	13	4	231	
Downsville ..	8	12	33	7	3	217	58	25	24	23	12	422	
ingham ..	.	.	1	1	24	162	10	1	7	2	1	209	
mnisfail ..	3	.	14	.	3	176	9	2	11	6	6	230	
airns ..	10	.	89	3	1	377	25	11	7	8	5	536	
N. Coastal	32	15	175	16	36	1,652	196	63	80	68	51	2,384	158
arters Towers	8	.	11	5	6	60	30	5	18	9	8	160	
herton ..	1	.	12	.	.	16	19	10	3	3	1	65	
ghenden ..	1	.	2	.	.	25	8	2	4	1	.	43	
North West	10	.	25	5	6	101	57	17	25	13	9	268	56
TAL STATE ..	105	131	801	128	260	3,456	909	484	413	302	501	7,490	69

TABLE II. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
JANUARY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building & Construction.	Shipping & Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	80	19	205	303	117	139	95	95	173	85	254	109	186	129	1,989
Ipswich ..	11	10	14	16	14	31	1	7	4	11	7	10	23	16	175
Moreton ..	91	29	219	319	151	170	96	102	177	96	261	119	209	145	2,164
Gympie ..	3	2	2	3	3	2	.	.	1	2	.	1	1	.	20
Maryborough	33	7	9	53	21	29	20	6	1	8	.	10	19	5	221
Bundaberg ..	234	31	6	179	10	46	16	5	8	17	2	13	21	8	596
S.E. Coastal	270	40	17	235	34	77	36	11	10	27	2	24	41	13	837
Toowoomba ..	27	6	7	24	15	38	.	4	8	10	4	5	15	9	172
Warwick ..	15	.	2	2	2	6	.	.	2	5	1	.	2	1	38
Roma	3	.	.	2	1	2	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	10
Charleville	39	2	.	3	1	4	.	1	2	.	.	2	1	.	55
Downs and S.W.	84	8	9	31	19	50	.	6	12	15	5	8	18	10	275
Rockhampton	99	16	10	1,033	24	79	44	21	26	35	3	21	34	17	1,462
Emerald ..	5	.	.	2	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	10
Longreach ..	69	.	.	1	.	7	.	1	.	1	.	4	2	5	90
Central ..	173	16	10	1,036	24	87	44	23	27	36	3	25	36	22	1,562
Blackay ..	277	10	6	307	17	66	5	7	4	12	7	11	15	12	756
Myr	112	6	3	79	3	10	.	3	3	3	1	2	4	2	231
Downsville ..	20	5	13	222	13	43	18	12	20	7	24	14	5	6	422
Ingham ..	99	2	.	92	1	10	.	2	.	1	.	1	.	1	209
Annisfail ..	114	4	3	80	3	9	4	3	1	.	1	5	3	.	230
Airns ..	216	20	4	173	21	53	5	15	3	6	2	9	3	6	536
N. Coastal	838	47	29	953	58	191	32	42	31	29	35	42	30	27	2,384
Waters Towers	25	7	1	51	5	35	.	5	3	4	4	5	3	12	160
Wetherston ..	10	15	.	6	6	19	.	2	2	.	1	4	.	.	65
Wagghenden ..	32	1	1	4	2	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	43
North West	67	23	2	61	13	55	.	8	5	5	5	9	3	12	268
TOTAL STATE ..	1,523	163	286	2,635	279	630	208	192	262	208	311	227	337	229	7,490

